



# **USAID | KAZAKHSTAN**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE USAID PROJECT MEET TO OUTLINE THE COOPERATION PLAN ON ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF EXTERNAL PUBLIC AUDIT INSTITUTIONS**

Astana, September 24, 2008. The Accounts Committee (AC) and the USAID funded Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness (EREC) project held a meeting to discuss priority areas to be included in a project workplan for future cooperation that would contribute to enhancing the capacity of the AC and the Revision Committees of Maslikhats to perform financial audit, performance audit and fraud prevention and detection. The meeting was headed by the Accounts Committee Chairman, Mr. Omarkhan Oxikbayev and the EREC Chief of Party, Mr. Bruce Reid.

Mr. Reid noted that the Accounts Committee had developed high level competencies for conducting audits and that future technical support would need to be structured and delivered in recognition of this advanced stage of institutional capacity. It was agreed that both parties would develop a detailed two year training plan to develop technical skills and methodologies to conduct modern risk based auditing systems and practices. The first series of trainings are planned for the beginning of December 2008.

Mr. Reid announced that EREC would organize a train the trainers program for a group of experienced public sector auditors in the AC in order to establish an ongoing institutional capacity to train new staff and the auditors of Revision Committees of Maslikhats. In addition both parties agreed to jointly discuss with the World Bank the possibility of cooperating in the provision of technical support activities to the Accounts Committee that could involve the possible establishment of a regional training centre for public sector accountants and auditors in Kazakhstan. Mr. Reid commented this type of initiative was important in enabling Kazakhstan and the other countries in Central Asia to take responsibility for the training future public sector accountants and auditors and that the successful establishment of such a facility would need to involve cooperation between the key Government institutions and the donor community.

Apart from the above arrangements, it was negotiated that EREC would deliver a seminar on international best practices in Public Audit, and that EREC experts would continue to support the drafting of the Law on the Accounts Committee.

Mr. Oxikbayev expressed his satisfaction on the outcomes of the planned joint activities discussions, and ensured that the Accounts Committee, on its part, would provide the necessary assistance to support realization of the initiatives to be contained in the cooperation plan.

Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness (EREC) project is one of the many activities implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kazakhstan. Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided more than \$500 million in programs that support Kazakhstan's economic growth, health care system, and democratic institutions.